

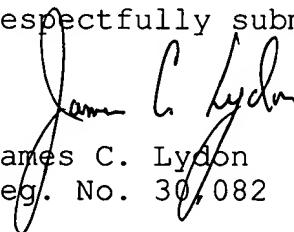
**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-11, adds new claims 12-26, inserts a reference to parent application PCT/FR99/003003 into the specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78, and replaces the original abstract with a substitute abstract. New claims 12-26 generally correspond to claims 1-5 and 8-11. A version with markings to show changes made is attached as an Appendix. Claims 12-26 are pending.

An Information Disclosure Statement and a Recordation Form Cover Sheet are attached.

It is not believed that any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosures:

Appendix  
Abstract of the Disclosure  
Information Disclosure Statement

## APPENDIX

### Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph inserted between the title and the first heading on page 1 is new.

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 have been canceled.

Claims 12-26 are new.

#### IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Substitute Abstract is new.